

March 11, 2003

Exemption No. 7473A
Regulatory Docket No. FAA-2000-8182

Deputy Tim Graham
Search and Rescue Operations
Washoe County Sheriff's Office
911 Parr Boulevard
Reno, NV 89512-1000

Dear Mr. Graham:

This is in response to your September 11, 2002, letter petitioning the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on behalf of Washoe County Sheriff's Office (Sheriff's Office) for an extension of Exemption No. 7473. That exemption from § 61.113(e) of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) permits members of the Washoe County Sheriff's Air Squadron (Air Squadron) who hold private pilot certificates to continue to be reimbursed for fuel, oil, and maintenance expenses incurred while performing search and location missions for the Sheriff's Office. Additionally, you request an amendment that would allow the Air Squadron to transport personnel and equipment to the scene of a rescue. That request for amendment was previously submitted by the Sheriff's Office and is being addressed as a separate request. You will be informed of the agency's decision in a separate decision document.

In your petition, you indicate that the conditions and reasons regarding public interest and safety, presented in the original petition upon which the exemption was granted, remain unchanged.

The FAA has determined that good cause exists for not publishing a summary of the petition in the Federal Register because the requested extension of the exemption would not set a precedent, and any delay in acting on this petition would be detrimental to the Sheriff's Office.

The FAA has determined that the justification for the issuance of Exemption No. 7473 remains valid with respect to this exemption.

AFS-02-661

In consideration of the foregoing, I find that a grant of exemption is in the public interest. Therefore, pursuant to the authority contained in 49 U.S.C. §§ 40113 and 44701, delegated to me by the Administrator, Exemption No. 7473 is hereby amended by extending its March 31, 2003, termination date to March 31, 2005, unless sooner superseded or rescinded.

All other conditions and limitations of Exemption No. 7473 remain the same. This letter shall be attached to, and is a part of, Exemption No. 7473.

In an effort to allow the public to participate in tracking the FAA's rulemaking activities, we have transitioned to the Department of Transportation's Internet-accessible Docket Management System (DMS), located at <http://dms.dot.gov>. This new system enables interested persons to submit, view, and download requests to the DMS in accordance with 14 CFR § 11.63. Future requests should be submitted through this system.

Sincerely,

/s/

Louis C. Cusimano
Acting Director, Flight Standards Service